

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current  
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





1.9  
Ag 81 8

# U S D A ORGANIZER

LIBRARY  
RECEIVED  
★ APR 9 1937 ★  
Department of Agriculture

American Federation  
of  
Government Employees

Lodge 31 A.F.G.E.

Affiliated with  
American Federation  
of Labor

Vol. 2, No. 3

April, 1937

## AGRICULTURE UNIONS MEET DR. STOCKBERGER ON PROMOTIONS

A second meeting with the Personnel Office on the Vacancy-Promotions Agreement took place on Friday, March 19. Those present were Dr. W. W. Stockberger and Mr. Gladmon of the Personnel Office, and representatives of Agriculture Lodge 31, Resettlement Lodge 206, Beltsville Lodge 25, and Bureau of Public Roads Lodge 344.

At the previous meeting an agreement for a formal procedure of "promotions from within" was presented by Lodge 31. The Personnel Office was impressed with the problem and asked for time to study the matter.

The second meeting continued the discussion in a more concrete form. The Unions presented thoroughly outlined proposals for "machinery" to carry out the policy of the promotions agreement. Among others, the following important points were covered in our proposals:

1. When a new job or vacancy occurs, consideration shall be given first, to employees of the Division in which said vacancy occurs; second, to employees of the Bureau; third, to employees of the entire Department.
2. If a further Civil Service rating is required, the employee who is chosen in accordance with the principles of the agreement shall be given an appropriate examination.
3. Rejected applicants shall have the right to appeal the decision within 48 hours of the receipt of such notice. If appeal is made, consideration must be given it before final appointment is announced.

On April 2 Dr. Stockberger and Mr. Gladmon will again meet with the Union committee to discuss the possibility of putting the program into action.

The Union has presented the problem, offered definite principles for such an agreement and offered concrete proposals for "machinery" to carry out a "promotions from within" policy.

It is expected that at the meeting on Friday Dr. Stockberger will offer the Administration's concrete proposals.

(As we go to press the April 2 meeting has not been held.)





# BOOK REVIEWS



COOPERATIVE DEMOCRACY ..... By James Peter Warbasse

(Harpers .. \$2.50)

The rise in consumers' cooperatives is a phenomenon resulting directly from the depression. Already two million of the "hundred million guinea pigs" have enrolled in the movement. No doubt the real money savings and the immediate practical gains--items especially significant to the white collar workers whose wages have been lopped--account for the growth in memberships. But the long-time results--the political, social and economic trends implicit in the cooperative idea--have been obscured. For this reason the latest revision of Dr. Warbasse's classic text is timely.

Dr. Warbasse is not merely a chronicler but a prophet as well. He projects the thesis that the cooperatives will eventually defeat monopoly and achieve world peace and the brotherhood of man. In this country, for example, the cooperative movement will take over the functions of the state; Congress will be displaced by a Cooperative Assembly and an Industrial Assembly. All of this will be the result of a long-time trend and without political intrusion on the part of the cooperatives themselves.

We do not wish to presume in the face of authority, but it is our opinion that Dr. Warbasse is being carried away by personal emotion. He says little concerning the obstacles that a growing movement is likely to encounter, much less does he suggest a way to surmount them. "Through cooperation," he writes, "could be advanced a truly classless society." But the reader is never quite certain of the manner in which this spirit of "cooperation" is to be stimulated.

Experience in England and elsewhere has shown that cooperatives do not prosper without the whole hearted support of organized labor. To date little attempt has been made to attract labor to this fold. Merely to say--as does Dr. Warbasse--that the two movements have common interests, is not enough. It is obvious that an intensive effort to organize co-ops in the trade unions is what is really lacking.

Notwithstanding its many defects, it must be said that the President of the Cooperative League of America has revised a really remarkable book. It is the most complete text on the world-wide cooperative movement. What is more important, it is written in a style that will be appreciated by the layman. It is clear and vigorous and will offer the intellectual stimulation that the subject undoubtedly deserves.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lodge 31 wishes to extend to the family of George L. Bidwell, one of the Lodge's earliest members, condolences for his untimely demise. Brother Bidwell was chemist in charge of the Cereal Section in the Bureau of Food and Drugs and had been in the service for thirty years. Although unable to take an active part in the union, he has always shown a marked interest in the development of our lodge.



DISTRICT DEPARTMENT DENIES SEAT TO  
STATE DEPARTMENT DELEGATE.....  
AGRICULTURE LODGE 31 AND OTHERS  
OPPOSE ACTION AS UNDEMOCRATIC.....

At the March 12 meeting of the District Department of the A.F.G.E., Brother Leander Lovell, elected delegate by the State Department Lodge, was denied a seat in the District Department on charges of advocating principles not in accord with the best interests of the A. F. G. E.

The trial was upon recommendation of the Credentials Committee that he be denied a seat after a preliminary hearing of that committee had disclosed that he had been a former member of N.R.A. Lodge 91, A.F.G.E., and had participated in the campaign to reinstate John Donovan, President of the N.R.A. Union, who had been discharged by General Johnson for union activity.

(There is no question of the facts in this presentation; they are accepted as true by everyone. It is however also a fact that a lawyer representing the National Office of the A.F.G.E. participated on the side of Donovan in the hearings before the National Labor Relations Board, which ordered General Johnson to reinstate Donovan. It is also true that the official publication of the A.F.G.E. National Office on several occasions listed the Donovan reinstatement as a victory of the A.F.G.E. Furthermore, Donovan himself was a delegate to the District Department up until the N.R.A. Lodge turned in its A.F.G.E. charter.)

Others accused him of opposing an amendment to the A.F.G.E. Constitution which banned picketing as a weapon of government employees, and other activities considered detrimental to the A. F. G. E.

The State Department Lodge and others pointed out that basically the charge brought against Brother Lovell was that his opinions were different from those of the majority and that certainly the right to hold a minority opinion is an inherent democratic right.

Lodge 31 upholds democracy outside as well as in - Lodge 31's delegates voted to seat Brother Lovell.

\* \* \* \* \*

USDA ORGANIZER published monthly by  
Lodge 31, A.F.G.E.

EDITOR

Della Cogan

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Nellie Shaffer

Louis Matosoff

Simon Rottenberg

(Circulation 4,000)

The ORGANIZER is the official organ of Lodge 31 and should therefore be used by all employees in the Department of Agriculture. Criticisms and suggestions pertaining to the ORGANIZER and to union activities should be sent in to Della Cogan, Room 2754, South Building.

#### THE MERIT SYSTEM AND NON-COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS

Our lodge membership is made up of both Civil Service and Non-Civil Service people. We are, therefore, interested in maintaining the Civil Service system and extending it to those agencies - especially in Agriculture - which are not now covered by Civil Service.

This extension should be made thru non-competitive examinations and not by throwing out present employees and bringing in new and untried ones from all over the country.

Many of these employees in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and Resettlement have worked efficiently for two and three years in their present positions. Their efficiency has been proved by experience.

Lodge 31 is at the present time making plans to obtain Civil Service status for those now employed in those agencies. It has gone on record favoring non-competitive examinations for Non-Civil Service employees.

\* \* \* \* \*

J O I N

L O D G E 31 T O D A Y

\* \* \* \* \*



# LODGE 31'S SOCIAL PROGRAM FOR APRIL

## April 10 - BOWLING PARTY

So much fun was had at our last Bowling Party that we decided to have another "get-together" at the Lucky Strike Bowling Alley (14th & S Sts., N.W.). Be there at 3:00 p.m. and try for the high score prize - if you can't win that you can still compete for the "booby." Don't forget - Saturday, April 10 at 3:00 p.m.

## April 17 - PICNIC AT ROCK CREEK PARK

With the weather getting fairer and fairer, what could be nicer than an out-of-doors gathering? Right - nothing! So the Union is arranging a picnic you'll remember for many a day to come. Games, songs, food - and then some. Notices giving full details of this picnic will appear in the cafeterias and on bulletin boards.

## April 27 - SWIMMING PARTY

Get out your swim suits and make ready for an enjoyable evening. On Tuesday nite, April 27 at 8:00 p.m. Agriculture employees will gather at the Shoreham Hotel Swimming Pool and will engage in a "splashing" good time. Bring your own suit if you have one, or rent one from the Shoreham. Don't miss out - come on down and do a little "splashing" yourself!

\* \* \* \* \*

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS

April 13

Rm. 3630, South Bldg. - 4:45

May 4

2000 16th St., N.W. #26 - 8:00

Union members are invited  
to attend these meetings.

### WHAT THE OTHER LODGES LABOR LODGE 12 ARE DOING

Labor Lodge 12 reports that it has succeeded in getting ten of its members in the Consumers Council Division properly reclassified.

### RESETTLEMENT 206

There have been about 600 dismissals at Resettlement since the first of the year and it is expected that dismissals will continue at the same rate. However, R.A. Lodge 206 was able to secure a fair procedure of dismissals, including two weeks' notice and consideration of seniority. Further, the lodge is engaged in a campaign for non-competitive Civil Service examinations to be given to dismissed employees to enable them to be placed in a permanent agency and is pushing for W.P.A. projects to be created for white collar workers.

\* \* \* \* \*

### LODGE 31 MEETS

ON THURSDAY, APRIL 15TH IN  
ROOM 2050 SOUTH BUILDING  
AT 8:00 P.M.

In the Old P.O.....the observer noted that one, Betty Pichette is quite a bowling enthusiast. Her score will be preserved in private files for posterity. ...Congrats to Wm.McKay who recently became heir conditioned.....Regret the absence of Ruth Pritchott. Hope to see her smiling face again soon.....



# HORIZONTAL

1. Unity
10. Obtain
11. New Deal Agency (abbr.)
12. Washington, ---. ---.
13. Note well (abbr.)
14. Boy's name
15. Get with difficulty
17. Provided
19. Exists
20. Advancement
23. Containers
25. Feline
27. Seizing
29. State (abbr.)
30. Spasm
31. Unit of time
32. Older
33. Preposition
35. Conceit
36. Preposition
37. Fancy
38. Illustrious

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10							11	
	12			13			14	
	15		16		17	18		19
20				21			22	
				23				24
25	26			27				28
29			30				31	
		32						
33	34		35					36
	37				38			

## VERTICAL

1. Spain (abbr.)
2. Rank
3. Employer's reply to strike
4. Trade among States (abbr.)
5. Remind of debt
6. Method of industrial peace
7. Thing (Latin)
8. Practice
9. Vegetables
16. Printer's measure
18. Strike-breaker
20. What labor does
21. Picnic
22. Species of willow
24. Set on fire
26. Always, ever
28. Negative
30. Eat
34. Preposition
36. " -- Smith"

## COMMITTEE WORKS FOR BETTER HOUSING

On March 9 the Rent & Housing Committee of the Central Labor Union called a conference to consider the housing situation in the District. Delegates from locals of affiliated unions met at the Typographical Temple to discuss plans to improve conditions. The meeting opened with the reading of a resolution of the C.L.U. calling for: 1. A low cost housing program. 2. Rent control. 3. A tenant-landlord court to settle disputes. 4. The establishment of a Housing Authority in the District. 5. More stringent enforcement of health, fire and sanitary regulations of apartment buildings, etc.

The deplorable condition of rents and housing in the District was brought out by these facts: Only 5% of the houses built in recent years have been built with union labor. 25% of the government employee's salary goes for rent. Over 50% of the houses in Washington are over 75 years old. Rents in Washington are 55% higher than those in any other part of the United States.

The Executive Committee of the Rent and Housing Committee planned to bring in concrete proposals for action to the C.L.U. based on the discussion at the Conference.

On greivances, get in touch with the following members of the Greivance Committee through the mail:

Louis Matosoff, Room 2609  
John A. Schricker, Room 3630  
James Maxwell, F.S.C.C., Bay 2



# ON THE LABOR FRONT

## LOCAL UNION STRIKES FOR HIGHER WAGES

At two Southeast plants of the National Pants Co. pickets marched and sang the Star Spangled Banner. With the outbreak of a strike in the Pennsylvania plant of the same company, organizers of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America in a hurried campaign signed up 150 local employees, and ordered a strike here. Joining striking employees on the picket line were members of the Washington League of Women Shoppers whose investigations indicated that workers received as little as five or six dollars per week, that sanitation facilities at the plant were "deplorable." - - - - - Offers of a 5% pay raise as an inducement to return to work failed to break the strike.

## REMINGTON-RAND CALLED LAW-BREAKERS

The National Labor Relations Board studied the labor policy of Remington-Rand, Inc., and rendered a report

which scathingly denounced the company. The report pointed out the "callous disregard" of employees rights, the use of "ruthless methods," and the "attempted bribery" of union officials. The Board ordered the commencement of collective bargaining with the District Council Office Equipment Workers, the reinstatement of all strikers, the payment of transportation costs of strikers compelled to travel to other towns to resume their jobs because of the removal of machinery. Remington-Rand developed a "Mohawk Valley formula" which is the most comprehensive plan yet evolved by the genius of strike-breaking; sent spies wholesale into the union; began whispering campaigns designed to destroy the morale of strikers' wives; bribed and bribed again; hired as company guards men who had no scruples about the use of firearms; stifled any oppositionist tendencies in the local press; shot down men to provide "scene" for cameramen. Bergoff owes a debt of gratitude to Remington-Rand.

\* \* \* \* \*

J O I N L O D G E 31 T O D A Y

Name _____	Date _____
Home Address _____	
Bureau _____	Bldg. _____
Room No. _____	Office Phone No. _____
Initiation Fee - - - - \$1. .	

Fill out this blank and send it in to John A. Schricker,  
Room 3630, South Building, Dept. of Agriculture